

The

# Journey of Coronado

1340-1342

from the City of Mexico to the  
Grand Canon of the Colorado  
and the Buffalo Plains of Texas,  
Kansas and Nebraska

As told by himself and his followers

TRANSLATED AND EDITED  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
BY

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WITH MAP

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The Journey of Coronado  
*by Pedro Castañeda*

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## Foreword

*The Journey of Coronado 1540-1542* concerns the expedition led by the Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez Coronado to locate the reportedly fabulously wealthy Indian cities in what is now the southwestern United States. Coronado dispelled illusions about the great store of precious metals held by the Indians of the region, but he also opened up a vast new area of the North American continent to public knowledge and greatly extended Spanish penetration northward.

Friar Marcos, a missionary who claimed to have come within sight of one of the seven cities of Cibola, had returned to Mexico City with dazzling accounts of the great wealth possessed by this and by the other Indian cities. Mendoza, the viceroy in Mexico, ordered Coronado to lead an expedition to find them. Coronado departed northward in 1540 with several thousand men in his company. The expedition fought battle after battle with the Indians as it proceeded, although Coronado reported that, in accordance with his

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where their general was waiting for them, with their quarters all ready, and here they were reunited, except some captains and men who had gone off to discover other provinces.

### CHAPTER XI

How Don Pedro de Tovar discovered Tusayan or Tuhaco<sup>1</sup> and Don Garcia Lopez de Cardenas saw the Elnebrad river and the other things that had happened.

WHILE the things already described were taking place, Cibola being at peace, the General Francisco Vazquez found out from the people of the province about the provinces that lay around it, and got them to tell their friends and neighbors that Christians had come into the country, whose only desire was to be their friends, and to find out about good lands to live in, and for them to come to see the strangers and talk with them. They did this, since they know how to communicate with one another in these regions, and they informed him about a province with seven villages of the same sort as theirs, although somewhat different. They had nothing to do with these people. This province is called Tusayan. It is twenty-five leagues from Cibola. The villages are high and the people are warlike.

The general had sent Don Pedro de Tovar

<sup>1</sup> Compare chapter 18. These two groups of pueblos were not the same.

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to these villages with seventeen horsemen and three or four foot soldiers. Juan de Padilla, a Franciscan friar, who had been a fighting man in his youth, went with them. When they reached the region, they entered the country so quietly that nobody observed them, because there were no settlements or farms between one village and another and the people do not leave the villages except to go to their farms, especially at this time, when they had heard that Cibola had been captured by very fierce people, who travelled on animals which ate people. This information was generally believed by those who had never seen horses, although it was so strange as to cause much wonder. Our men arrived after nightfall and were able to conceal themselves under the edge of the village, where they heard the natives talking in their houses. But in the morning they were discovered and drew up in regular order, while the natives came out to meet them, with bows, and shields, and wooden clubs, drawn up in lines without any confusion. The interpreter was given a chance to speak to them and give them due warning, for they were very intelligent people, but nevertheless they drew lines and insisted that our men should not go across these lines toward their village.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Compare the lines which the Hopi or Mogul Indians still mark with sacred meal during their festivals, as described by Dr. Fewkes in his "Fetich Ceremonials," in vol. II. of the Journal of American Ethnology and Archaeology.

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While they were talking, some men acted as if they would cross the lines, and one of the natives lost control of himself and struck a horse a blow on the cheek of the bridle with his club. Friar Juan, fretted by the time that was being wasted in talking with them, said to the captain: "To tell the truth, I do not know why we came here." When the men heard this, they gave the Santiago so suddenly that they ran down many Indians and the others fled to the town in confusion. Some indeed did not have a chance to do this, so quickly did the people in the village come out with presents, asking for peace. The captain ordered his force to collect, and, as the natives did not do any more harm, he and those who were with him found a place to establish their headquarters near the village. They had dismounted here when the natives came peacefully, saying that they had come to give in the submission of the whole province and that they wanted him to be friends with them and to accept the presents which they gave him. This was some cotton cloth, although not much, because they do not make it in that district. They also gave him some dressed skins and corn meal, and pine nuts and corn and birds of the country. Afterward they presented some turquoises, but not many. The people of the whole district came together that day and submitted themselves, and they allowed him to enter their vil-

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lages freely to visit, buy, sell, and barter with them.

It is governed like Cibola, by an assembly of the oldest men. They have their governors and generals. This was where they obtained the information about a large river, and that several days down the river there were some people with very large bodies.

As Don Pedro de Tovar was not commissioned to go farther, he returned from there and gave this information to the general, who dispatched Don Garcia Lopez de Cardenas with about twelve companions to go to see this river. He was well received when he reached Tusayan and was entertained by the natives, who gave him guides for his journey. They started from here loaded with provisions, for they had to go through a desert country before reaching the inhabited region, which the Indians said was more than twenty days' journey. After they had gone twenty days they came to the banks of the river. It seemed to be more than 3 or 4 leagues in an air line across to the other bank of the stream which flowed between them.

This country was elevated and full of low twisted pines, very cold, and lying open toward the north, so that, this being the winter season, no one could live there on account of the cold. They spent three days on this bank looking for a passage down to the river, which looked from above as if the water was 6 feet across, although the Indians said it